



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/826,696

Confirmation No.: 9603

In re Application of:

Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3749

Filed: April 19, 2004

Examiner:

For: FIRING FURNACE AND FIRING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

Also enclosed is a copy of an International Search Report bearing a mailing date of August 3, 2004, and the U.S. PTO is directed thereto for a concise statement of possible relevance of the references cited therein.

Serial No. 10/826,696

Cited patent US 4,047,894 corresponds to Japanese Patent Publication No. 50-10281.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.



Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177

September 15, 2004
Date

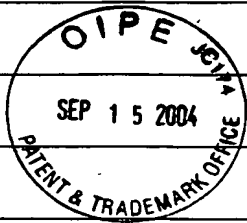
RWP/klb

Attorney Docket No.: WATK:265

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Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>						
FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>			ATTY DOCKET NO. WATK:265		SERIAL NO. 10/826,696	
			APPLICANT Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.			
			FILING DATE April 19, 2004		GROUP 3749	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,047,894	09-13-1977	Dieter Kuhl	23	284	May 17, 1974

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION NO YES	
	50-10281	02-01-1975	JAPAN			X	
	8-247409	09-27-1996	JAPAN				Abstract
	2002-50371	02-15-2002	JAPAN				Abstract
	2003-86210	03-20-2003	JAPAN				Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.